

# PRN Newsletter

Issue XII, June 2002

Board of Vocational Nursing And Psychiatric Technicians  
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205  
Sacramento, California 95833

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Executive Officer



## Why Do We Call It *PRN*?



At its inception in the 1980s, the Board's first newsletter was titled *TRENDS*. A budget shortage in the early 1990s forced the Board to suspend the printing of the newsletter for a brief time. When the Board resumed publication on a limited basis only the newsletter was named PRN. Health care providers recognize this abbreviation of "pro re nata" that is Latin for "according to circumstances" or "as needed". The newsletter is one mechanism the Board uses to meet it's goal to educate consumers by disseminating important information.

Now that the Board resumed biannual publication on a regular basis, the newsletter may be renamed in the future.

## Governor's Workforce Initiative



On January 23, 2002, Governor Gray Davis announced his "Nurse Workforce Initiative; Building for a Healthier Future". The initiative pledges \$60 million to train additional health care workers (primarily licensed nurses and psychiatric technicians) over the next three years. Money to fund the initiative will come from the Workforce Investment Act, when feasible, and from healthcare foundations.

Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) is overseeing the implementation of this initiative. Members of the various implementation task forces include representatives from HHSA, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), the California Workforce Investment Board, the Department of Health Services, the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges, the Board of Registered Nursing and the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians. The initiative includes the following elements:

(Continued on page 2, see Workforce)

### MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians is to protect the public welfare by ensuring that only qualified persons are licensed vocational nurses and psychiatric technicians by enforcing education requirements, standards of practice and by educating consumers of their rights.*

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## WORKFORCE

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- **Support additional training and preceptorship positions**

The first measure of the initiative commits \$24 million for training an additional 2,400 registered nurses over the next three years. The task force will determine mechanisms for data collection and administration of funding sources.

- **Expansion of the Central Valley Health Careers Training Program**

The initiative will commit six million dollars over 3 years to expand the Central Valley Health Careers Training Program to train an additional 300 health care workers, primarily licensed nurses and psychiatric technicians. The West Hills Community College Psychiatric Technician Program now trains 45 psychiatric technicians each year. The initiative will expand the psychiatric technician program and extend funding to a regional consortium of training institutions and health care providers that will provide opportunities for on-the-job training and distance learning.

- **The Nursing Education Enhancement Project**

The initiative would provide twenty-five million dollars over 3 years to expand five regional workforce collaboratives currently under development. Funds would also be available for additional regional collaboratives to train 2,400 licensed nurses through the Community Colleges and CSU system.

- **Expanding career ladders**

The initiative will provide \$3 million over three years to facilitate CNAs, LVNs or RNs moving up the health care career ladder. This portion of the initiative is aimed at reducing the rate at which workers leave health care delivery jobs.

- **Encouraging Workplace Reforms**

The initiative will provide \$1 million over three years to fund design and testing of workplace reform products to improve nurse retention by:

1. reducing workplace stress;
2. improving scheduling practices; and
3. increasing nurse participation in care management.

- **Implement a Statewide Media Campaign To Recruit Nurses**

This initiative will develop an effort to:

1. attract licensed nurses to California;
2. encourage nurses to return to bed-side nursing; and
3. recruit students, beginning in the middle school years, into the nursing profession.

- **Standardize Curriculum**

Exploration of strategies to standardize pre-nursing prerequisites and nursing education curriculum in an effort to make it easier to transfer:

1. between community college campuses; and
2. from an Associate Degree in Nursing to a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing Program.

- **Streamlining The RN Licensing Process**

1. building a real-time electronic licensure application process; and
2. extend the duration of temporary RN licenses from 18 months to two years.

- **Research and Evaluation**

One million dollars is allotted for research and evaluation of the initiative. Finding successful and sustainable strategies for addressing problems in the health workforce requires identifying what works and what doesn't, and depends on our ability to better understand the economic as well as other forces affecting the health workforce and health delivery system. The project will also explore methods to collect and make easily available to the public comprehensive RN education information to assist prospective nursing students in selection of programs.

(Continued on page 3, see Workforce)

## WORKFORCE

(Continued from page 2)

- **Restore funding for the Health Professional Education Foundation, including the Registered Nurse Education Fund Loan Repayment Program**  
Restoration of \$800,000 from the Registered Nurse Education Fund (funded by a \$5 surcharge on RN licenses) to provide additional financial assistance and education support for nursing students.

The Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians is an active participant in the Governor's Nurse Workforce Initiative. In addition to being represented on various task forces related to the initiative, the Board supports the initiative by promoting consumer protection through regulation of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technician programs and licensees. The Board also facilitates expansion of educational programs by approving new programs and expanding the capacity of existing programs when those programs meet all of the requirements of Article 5 of the Vocational Nursing Practice Act or the Psychiatric Technicians Law.

The Board is also working to decrease barriers to licensure through its equivalency program that allows persons with the requisite work experience and education to qualify for the licensure examination. In addition, the Board utilizes the Live Scan fingerprinting system that decreases the amount of time it takes to clear candidates for licensure. There is a plan in place to introduce online licensure renewal; however, implementation of that program is dependent on available funding.



## Online License Verification Update



In December 2000, the Board began working with the Department of Consumer Affairs' (DCA) Internet Team to develop an online license verification feature. The initial license verification system, which did not include the disciplinary actions, was placed online April 30, 2001. The disciplinary action information for LVNs was completed and placed online December 21, 2001. The PT disciplinary action information is currently in the final testing stage of development, and the Board anticipates that it will be online by June 2002.

The online license verification system allows the user to search by name or license number, and provides the name, license number, expiration date, county of residence and license status, as well as any post-licensure certification such as blood withdrawal or intravenous therapy and any disciplinary actions taken against the license.

Since the system was implemented in April 2001, an average of 1015 PT and 12,500 VN "hits" have been received by the license verification site.

To access the license verification system, log onto [www.bvnpt.ca.gov](http://www.bvnpt.ca.gov), and select "Online License Verification" from the sidebar menu.

## Online Forms Now Available



Over the past year, the Board has posted several forms to download from its website. Here is a list of some of the forms available for download:

- Vocational Nurse Application Forms by Method
  - Method 1 - Graduates of California Accredited Schools of Vocational Nursing In California
  - Method 2 - Graduates of an Out-of-State School of Practical/Vocational Nursing
  - Method 3 - Equivalent Education and/or Experience
  - Method 4 - Military Applicants
  - Method 5 - 4 Year Expired California Licensed Vocational Nurse
- Psychiatric Technician Application Forms by Method
  - Method 1 - Graduates of California Accredited Schools of Psychiatric Technicians In California
  - Method 2 - Equivalent Education and/or Experience
  - Method 3 - Military Applicants
- Application for Replacement LVN License
- Application for Replacement PT License
- Live Scan Fingerprint Forms

These forms are available in PDF (Portable Document Format). You will need the Adobe Reader software to view and print these forms. You may download the free software at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). For future release of forms and other publications, please refer to the Board's website at [www.bvnpt.ca.gov](http://www.bvnpt.ca.gov).

## NCLEX-PN® Examination Update - Alpha and Beta Test

As reported in the April and October 2001 issues of PRN, National Computer Systems, Inc. (NCS Pearson) was selected by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc, to be the new test service for the NCLEX® examination beginning October 1, 2002. NCS Pearson, headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, was selected after thorough review and discussion of a comprehensive proposal outlining every aspect of the NCLEX® examination.



Since February of 2001, the Board has been working with NCSBN and NCS Pearson on examination transition activities. The Board was selected to participate in the Alpha and Beta testing of the NCLEX® transition process.

The Alpha phase of the testing was conducted during the week of December 17-21, 2001. During this phase, the examination registration and administration process was tested by simulating various scenarios. Following specific scripts provided by NCS Pearson, Board staff registered for the examination, scheduled examination dates and took examinations at a Pearson Professional Center in Roseville, California.

The Beta phase of the testing was conducted between March 1 and April 5, 2002. During the Beta phase of the testing, NCS Pearson conducted "live" testing of the examination administration process on actual licensure applicants. Actual test questions were used, and the results of the test were valid for licensure purposes.

*(Continued on page 5, see NCLEX®)*

A total of 229 students tested during the Beta test. 14 students withdrew from the Beta test and chose to register with the Chauncey Group, and 6 students registered for the beta test but did not appear for their examination. The pass rate for the Beta test was 80%. The Board received tremendous assistance from twelve VN program directors in the recruitment of student volunteers. NCSBN offered volunteer participants a \$25 reduction in the registration fee, plus a \$25 travel voucher. Beta test volunteers registered and took their licensing examination through NCS Pearson at test centers in Fresno, Glendale, Anaheim, Oakland, and Roseville, California, rather than through the Sylvan Prometric testing centers.

Students from the following schools volunteered to participate:

- Citrus College, Glendora, California
- City College of San Francisco, San Francisco, California
- Clovis Adult School, Clovis, California
- Concorde Career Institute, Garden Grove, California
- Concorde Career Institute, North Hollywood, California
- Dinuba Adult School, Dinuba, California
- Glendale Career College, Glendale, California
- Los Angeles Trade Tech College, Los Angeles, California
- Los Medanos College, Pittsburg, California
- North Orange County ROP, Anaheim, California
- Sacramento City College, Sacramento, California
- Tri-County ROP, Yuba City, California

Each program received a certificate of appreciation from the Board.

## NCLEX® Examination Transition Schedule



The transition to the new testing vendor (NCS Pearson) will be completed by October 1, 2002. NCSBN anticipates a seamless transition from Chauncey Group to VUE (VUE is the computer-based testing service of NCS Pearson), with no interruption in testing.

VUE will begin accepting registrations from candidates on August 16, 2002. Testing at Pearson Professional Centers begins October 1, 2002. The last day to register with The Chauncey Group will be August 15, 2002, and they will cease testing on September 30, 2002. At that time, The Chauncey Group will transfer all pending exam registration records to VUE.

Candidates may contact the appropriate testing service for information related to registration or scheduling of examinations:

- The Chauncey Group International,  
(800) 551-1912
- NCS Pearson, (866) 49NCLEX

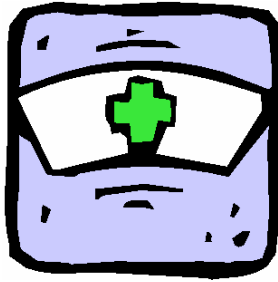
Candidates may also contact NCSBN directly, by phone at (312) 787-6555 Ext. 470, or by email at [nclexinfo@ncsbn.org](mailto:nclexinfo@ncsbn.org).





## LVNs Are a Part of the Health Care Team

In a time when health care is in dire need of nurses, it's important to remember that there are two classifications of licensed nurses; registered nurse (RN) and licensed vocational nurse (LVN). Both



of these classifications have their own unique and distinct role in providing care to the consumer in all areas of healthcare.

When AB 394 (Keuhl) was signed into law, it prohibited hospitals from assigning an *unlicensed person* to perform nursing functions in lieu of a registered nurse, or from allowing *unlicensed personnel* under the direct clinical supervision of a registered nurse to perform certain functions.

A thorough reading of AB 394 will show that *unlicensed personnel* are not able to perform procedures in acute care. These procedures should be left to the registered nurse **and other licensed nurses**. Division 2, Chapter 1, Article 7.5, Section 680, of the Business and Professions Code states "...in the interest of public safety and consumer awareness, it shall be unlawful for any person to use the title "nurse" in reference to himself or herself and in any capacity, except for an individual who is a registered nurse or a **licensed vocational nurse**."

With a nursing shortage projected to reach into the tens of thousands within the next ten years, it is imperative that RNs and LVNs be permitted to function to the fullest capacity within their legal scopes of practice. LVNs practice under the direction of the physician or RN. When there is understanding of the LVN scope of practice, RNs are then free to perform those duties that require the higher level of knowledge, skill, and ability possessed by the RN.

The LVN has a legitimate role in providing healthcare to the consumer. LVNs are accountable and responsible for safe, competent care within their scope of practice. In a time with too few nurses and consumer protection being jeopardized, RNs **and** LVNs are needed more than ever.

The Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (BVNPT) is the regulatory body governing vocational nurses and as such has sole jurisdiction over the education, licensure and discipline of the licensed vocational nurse. For current, accurate information regarding the scope of practice of the LVN, please go to the Board's internet website at [www.bvnpt.ca.gov](http://www.bvnpt.ca.gov).

## Nursing Workforce Advisory Committee of the Board of Registered Nursing



On March 13, 2002, the Board of Registered Nursing established a Nursing Workforce Advisory Committee to do the following:

- Provide guidance to Board members and staff in the development of tools to determine current and projected supply and demand for RNs and advance practice nurses and related issues.
- Recommend strategies to address disparities in work force projections.

(Continued on page 7, see Nursing)

## NURSING

(Continued from page 6)

- Recommend strategies to address factors in the workplace that affect positively and negatively the health and safety of California residents and nursing.

The committee will continue work started by the California Strategic Planning Committee for Nursing and consists of representatives from health care labor unions, nursing professional organizations, health care employers, nursing educators, researchers and both boards of nursing. The Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians is represented by Board Member Delores Irene Moreno-Bennett, LVN. The committee plans to meet two times per year.

### CSPCN Holds Final Meeting



The California Strategic Planning Committee for Nursing (CSPCN) held its final meeting in Oakland on March 13, 2002. The main item of business was the passing of the torch from the Committee to the Board of Registered Nursing to carry on the work of forecasting and planning for California's future Nursing Workforce needs.

CSPCN, a representative group of educators, employers and regulators, began its work in 1994. The Committee set out to collect reliable data to project nursing education and workforce needs. From this effort a forecasting model was developed as a basis for data collection, information synthesis and strategic

planning. In May 1996, the Committee's first report, *Nursing Work Force and Education Forecasting Initiative*, was published.

CSPCN then continued its work to assess the demand for and supply of nurses as a basis for strategic planning. This phase of the Committee's work resulted in a survey of employers to determine their intentions to hire various classifications of nursing personnel. A second survey was designed for nursing school administrators to define intended student enrollment and indicate the number of faculty to handle the enrollment. This phase of the Committee's work was published in June 1999 in a final report titled *Planning for California's Nursing Work Force*.

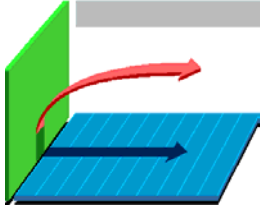
One of the final goals to be met by CSPCN was the institutionalization of the nursing work force planning process. Establishing the planning process within an existing agency or organization that has ongoing funding and staff support is essential to ensure the availability of current and accurate data relative to the nursing work force in California. Thus, it was appropriate to house the process with the Board of Registered Nursing.

From its inception, CSPCN has been recognized as a national leader in nursing work force planning. The Committee's reports, survey tools and other information have been widely disseminated to assist other states with their nursing work force needs.

The Committee will co-sponsor a Nursing Summit on September 13, 2002, in Sacramento. The work of CSPCN will be discussed as will the need to develop action plans to achieve an adequate nursing work force for California. Other co-sponsors include the Board

(Continued on page 10, see CSPCN)

## 2002 Strategic Plan



Strategic planning is critical to the continuing success of making state government programs and operations more efficient and effective.

Annually since implementation of its Strategic Plan in 1995, the Board identifies the strategic issues impacting the Board and the professions it regulates in order to effectively meet the needs of its key stakeholders and the challenges of a changing health care environment. Key stakeholders are consumers, licensees, applicants, educational program directors, professional associations, and health care facilities.

The strategic issues identified guide the Board in the establishment of goals and objectives that guide the future direction and priorities of the Board. Successful achievement of the Board's goals and objectives is annually measured through an external scan of stakeholders and an internal scan of Board staff, and periodically through public hearings, forums, and targeted surveys such as consumer and complainant satisfaction surveys. By conducting these assessments, the Board is able to identify its strengths and opportunities to improve. With a shared commitment to serve our consumers and working collaboratively in 2002, Board leadership and staff are well positioned to carry out the mission and strategic goals set forth in the plan.

All strategic plans require Governor's Office approval. The Board's 2002 Strategic Plan, adopted on April 12, 2002, will be forwarded to the Governor's Office through the Department of Consumer Affairs and the State and Consumer Services Agency. Once approved by the Governor's Office, the plan will be available for review and download through the Board's web site, [www.bvnpt.ca.gov](http://www.bvnpt.ca.gov).

## Results of Stakeholder Survey



In accordance with its strategic plan and the legal mandate for consumer protection, the Board mailed surveys to all vocational nurse and psychiatric technician programs and several of their clinical facilities in October 2001. The purpose

of the survey was to determine what challenges LVNs and PTs might face in education and practice within the next five years as well as identify potential problems new graduates of VN and PT programs may encounter. This information is also used to assist in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Board.

Of the approximately 400 surveys mailed, 71 program and 100 facility surveys were returned. Review of the surveys indicated the following:

### Program Survey Results

- In-coming students have more obligations while in school.
- Critical thinking skills need to be more prevalent in LVN / PT training programs.
- More nurse educators are needed to teach at the LVN level.
- Health care team members need to become familiar with the LVN scope of practice.
- LVN / PT responsibilities are increasing and will continue to increase due to the increasing acuity of patient care.
- New graduates need to be more fully prepared to care for acutely ill and psychiatric patients.
- New graduates are finding it difficult to deal with the high patient ratio in acute care.
- IV certification and administration of IV medications are needed skills for the LVN.

*(Continued on page 9, see Survey)*



## SURVEY

(Continued from page 8)

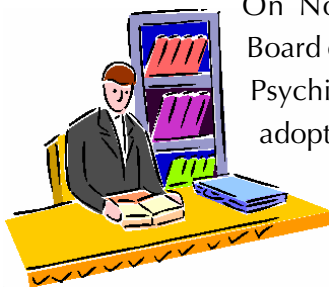
### Facility Survey Results

- Increased emphasis is needed in relation to critical thinking skills.
- IV certification and administration of IV medications by LVNs are critical needs.
- Knowledge base and skill level of the entry level LVN / PT needs to increase, especially in the area of patient assessments.

From the data, the Board's Education and Practice Committee will decide if new regulations need to be developed and in what area.

The Board will continue to survey its stakeholders on a regular basis. Results of these surveys will be shared in future issues of *PRN*.

## PT Occupational Analysis Update



On November 16, 2001, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians formally adopted a new test plan for the California Psychiatric Technician Licensure Examination. This action

was the culmination of a two year research study. As recent *PRN* articles have discussed, the Board, in conjunction with the Department of Consumer Affairs' Office of Examination Resources commenced a study of the psychiatric technician profession in January 2000. The goal was identification of those tasks and activities that are performed by entry – level psychiatric technicians in every practice setting throughout the State. These tasks were analyzed relative to the frequency of performance, and their impact on the health, safety, and welfare of the client.

As determined by the occupational analysis, the new test plan is categorized relative to the functional areas of practice. The test plan delineates those critical tasks and relevant knowledge, skills, and abilities that are required for entry – level psychiatric technician practice. Six (6) major content areas are included: Activities of Daily Living; Basic Nursing Care; Medication Administration; Treatment Plan Development and Implementation; Individual and Group Therapy; and Behavioral Management. The analysis also identified a need for an increased amount of nursing science. There is an increased emphasis on the incorporation of Nursing Process in each content area. Subcategories of Environmental Stability, Endocrine Nursing, and Cardiovascular Nursing have been added. Tasks related to the penal code have also been added.

The new test plan will serve as a blueprint for the California Psychiatric Licensure Examination. As such, the test plan directs critical content, behaviors, and the percentage of each category included in each licensure examination. Further, it directs a unique system by which all examination items must be coded.

In December 2001, the Board held a Retranslation Conference at the Office of Examination Resources. The purpose of the conference was the recoding and placement of all existing Psychiatric Technician examination items into categories specified by the new test plan. Subject Matter Experts analyzed each item. Items consistent with the new test plan and with current practice were recoded. Items found inconsistent with current practice were deleted from the bank of items.

In October 2002, the Board will convene a Standard Setting Conference. The purpose of this conference is the establishment of a new passing standard for the licensure examination. A report on the new standard will be presented at the February 2003 Board meeting.

## Psychiatric Technician Test Plan Workshop



In February 2002, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians convened two conferences, titled ***"A New Blueprint for Examination and Practice."***

The Southern California conference was held in Los Angeles on February 20, 2002. The Northern California conference was held in Sacramento on February 26, 2002. The purpose of the conference was to educate directors and faculty of Psychiatric Technician Programs relative to the Psychiatric Technician Occupational Analysis and new Psychiatric Technician Test Plan.

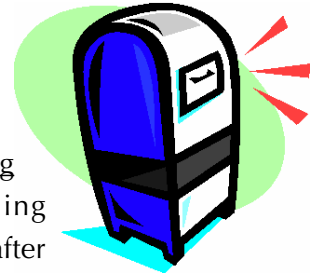
The conference was critical to implementation of the new test plan. At a minimum, program curricula must be modified to include content specified in the test plan. Without such revision, eligible students cannot be adequately prepared to function as safe and competent entry level practitioners or pass the licensure examination. Approximately 75 directors and faculty attended these sessions.

Teresa Bello-Jones, Executive Officer, presented an overview of the new Psychiatric Technician Occupational Analysis and survey results. The content and relative weights of the new test plan were examined and discussed.

The Psychiatric Technician programs will now review their curricula to determine whether revisions are needed.

## Change Of Address

Pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 136, licensees are required to notify the Board in writing of any changes of mailing address within 30 days after the change. Violation of this statute



may result in the issuance of a citation and fine. Additionally, failure to notify the Board of a new address in writing will result in unnecessary delays in receipt of your renewal forms, renewed licenses, and other important correspondence from the Board.

Please submit your change of address in writing to the Board and be sure to include your name, license number, old address and new address. Please also be aware that your address of record is public information and may be disclosed upon request.



### CSPCN

*(Continued from page 7)*

of Registered Nursing and the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians. **SO MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> IN SACRAMENTO AND JOIN YOUR COLLEAGUES FOR A DAY OF INFORMATION, NETWORKING AND CHALLENGES.** For more information on the Nursing Summit, please contact the Association of California Nurse Leaders at (916) 552-7529.

## 2002 BOARD MEETING DATES

June \*27-28, 2002  
Los Angeles, CA

September \*5-6, 2002  
Ontario, CA

November \*7-8, 2002  
Sacramento, CA

\* Reinstatement Hearings and Disciplinary Actions are conducted on the first Board Meeting Day.

### Board Meeting Information

The agenda for each Board meeting is mailed to individuals on the Board's general mailing list approximately 2-3 weeks prior to the actual Board meeting date. All Board meeting dates and locations are subject to change and meeting times are approximate.

The Board makes every effort to meet in facilities that can accommodate the estimated 300-800 members of the public who wish to observe its proceedings at any given location; however, at times, attendees may be asked to exchange seats with individuals waiting outside of the room to ensure that all interested parties have an opportunity to observe the proceedings. The Board appreciates your cooperation should this occur.

Interested parties should call the Board at (916) 263-7845 to confirm the date and specific meeting site of any Board meeting, or access the Board's web site at [www.bvnpt.ca.gov](http://www.bvnpt.ca.gov).

### Board Elections Held in February and June 2002

On February 8, 2002, at a meeting of the Board in San Diego, California, Sister Marie de Porres Taylor, Public Member, was re-elected President of the Board, and Mary Humphrey, Public Member, was re-elected Vice President. The term for both offices is February 2002 through February 2003; however, because the one-year grace period for the term of appointment for Mary Humphrey expired June 1, 2002, an election for the office of Board Vice-President will be held at the June 2002 Board meeting in Los Angeles, California.

### Board Member

#### Terms of Appointment Expiring

The one-year grace period for the term of appointment of Board members, Mary Humphrey and June Shockency expired on June 1, 2002. During the April 12, 2002 Board Meeting, Board President Sister Marie de Porres Taylor recognized the distinguished and dedicated service of both Board members to the consumers of California with a commemorative plaque.

### Board Vacancies

Effective June 1, 2001, a vacancy exists for a nurse educator member position on the Board. This member is appointed by the Governor, and must be either a licensed vocational nurse or a registered nurse with not less than five years of experience as a teacher or administrator in an accredited school of vocational nursing.

Effective June 1, 2002, two public member vacancies exist. These members are also appointed by the Governor.

Individuals interested in applying for an appointment to one of the Board member vacancies may access information about the Governor's appointment process online at [www.governor.ca.gov](http://www.governor.ca.gov), or they may contact the Office of the Governor at (916) 445-2841.





## Legislative Update

The Board is following a number of bills of interest to consumers and licensees, but is not sponsoring any legislation in the 2002-03 legislative session.

**AB 896 (Aroner)** - This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to consolidate and alter the distribution of resources and responsibilities with respect to the provision of services and supports to the developmentally disabled population within a unified system. The bill would revise the financing and budgeting processes of the developmental services system.

Over a six-year period, approximately 3,000 profoundly retarded state hospital clients would be moved out of three of the remaining five state institutions into community care settings. As a result, approximately 500 licensees per year would be discharged from the closed institutions. Although the bill does not specify the licensees who would be discharged from developmental centers, it is likely that they would include licensed vocational nurses and psychiatric technicians. Further, it is not likely that a majority of these licensees would follow clients into community settings to continue provision of care.

The Board has registered its opposition to the bill as currently written.

**AB 1855 (Steinberg)** - Existing law provides that human services agencies that are responsible for determining the fitness and character of persons applying for employment, license, or as a volunteer in a field where he/she would be involved in the care and security of, or would have supervisory or disciplinary power over members of vulnerable populations including children, the elderly, or the mentally impaired, may request criminal history information, and the Department of Justice shall provide criminal history information with respect to certain enumerated offenses. This bill would

provide that this information may also be provided in the case of individuals applying to become volunteers who would transport persons who are impaired by alcohol or drugs.

The Board has registered its support to the bill as currently written.

**AB 2077 (Koretz)** - This bill would establish the Community College Nursing Education Fund to be administered by the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges. Through an appropriation from the General Fund, grants would be made to community college districts for the purpose of providing additional allocations per full-time student enrolled in an associate degree nursing program beyond that which is already granted to non-nursing students.

The Board has registered its support to the bill as currently written.

**AB 1921 (Richman)** - This bill would require licensed physicians and surgeons, nurses, licensed vocational nurses, psychiatric technicians, and pharmacists to participate in the statewide hospital annual disaster exercise or to take continuing education courses relating to disaster management plans. The bill would require those courses to be developed by the licensing entity and the Office of Emergency Services.

**AB 2528 (Jackson)** - This bill would express the intent of the legislature that interest-free loans be made available to assistance to students enrolled in nursing science educational programs in post-secondary educational institutions with the intent of reducing attrition.

The Board has registered its support to the bill as currently written.

**AB 2634 (Campbell)** - This bill, in the case of Governor's appointments to boards, committees, or other positions within the department, if the Governor has not made an appointment within 180 days of a

*(Continued on page 13, see Legislation)*



## LEGISLATION

*(Continued from page 12)*

vacancy, the Senate Committee on Rules would have 60 days to make the appointment, except that a newly elected Governor in his or her first term would have one year to make an appointment for a vacancy occurring before the beginning of his or her term. The bill would further authorize an affected board, committee, or department to fill a vacancy if the Senate Committee on Rules does not make an appointment within the applicable 60-day period.

**SB 43 (Murray)** - This bill would prohibit vocational, professional, or post-secondary schools from disclosing any directory information concerning a current student enrolled at that institution without disclosing to the student the purposes for which the information will be used, and obtaining the written or electronic permission of the student to disclose the information for those purposes.

**SB 900 (Ortiz)** – This bill would state the Legislature’s findings and declarations with respect to the complexity of the provisions regarding dissemination of state summary criminal history information and resulting problems. This bill would consolidate much of the law regarding disclosures of criminal history for employment, licensing, or certification purposes. It would state a general rule applicable to those whose criminal history information is authorized to be released for employment, licensing, or certification purposes, a rule that limits the release to convictions and arrests for which the applicant is pending trial. It would state special rules for applicants for positions, licenses, or certification in law enforcement, in-home care, residential care, child day care, foster care, community care, banking, and others. These special rules would detail what information should be disseminated concerning these applicants, according to the nature of the position, license, or certification sought, incorporating certain variations in existing laws authorizing the dissemination, while making some substantive changes.

**SB 1244 (Figueroa)** - This bill would require the Governor to fill a board vacancy on a board within

the Department of Consumer Affairs or the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners within 30 days, and would provide that if the Governor fails to make an appointment the Senate Committee on Rules may make the appointment.

**SB 2022 (Figueroa)** - Under existing law, the Vocational Nursing Practice Act, five members of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (Board) constitute a quorum for transaction of business at a meeting. This bill would instead require six members of the Board to constitute a quorum.

**SB 2024 (Figueroa)** - This bill would delete the provisions relating to the abolishment of positions that were continuously vacant because of a hiring freeze, and would, instead, provide that no time during a hiring freeze may be included when determining whether a position has been vacant for 6 consecutive monthly pay periods. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

**SB 2059 (Figueroa)** - This bill would require every board within the Department of Consumer Affairs that issues licenses to promulgate regulations establishing a policy for the disclosure of information about its licensees to the public. The bill requires that the regulations mandate disclosure of all information related to the qualifications, competency, functions, or duties of its licensees, unless the disclosure would violate a licensee’s right to privacy or procedural due process of law.

**SB 2075 (Romero)** - This bill would require the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to establish and administer a nursing education grant program to provide one-time stipends of up to \$400 to eligible nursing students to help defray the cost of clothing and equipment essential to participation in a nursing program.

For more information on the Board’s legislative activity, please contact Kim Frankland, Administrative Assistant, by telephone at (916) 263-7845, or by e-mail at [kim\\_frankland@dca.ca.gov](mailto:kim_frankland@dca.ca.gov).



# Enforcement Update

## Convictions & Rehabilitation Criteria



As reported in the last issue of PRN, licensees are required as a condition of renewal to disclose convictions sustained since the last renewal. If you disclose a conviction, the Board conducts an

investigation to determine if the conviction is substantially related to your license and if discipline is warranted.

A crime or act is considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a licensed vocational nurse or psychiatric technician if, to a substantial degree, it evidences present or potential unfitness to perform the functions authorized by the license in a manner consistent with the public health, safety or welfare.

The Board uses the following general criteria to determine satisfactory rehabilitation of a licensee:

- The nature and severity of the act(s) or crime(s) under consideration.
- Evidence of any act(s) committed subsequent to the act(s) or crime(s) under consideration.
- The time that has elapsed since commission of the act(s) or crime(s) under consideration.
- The extent to which the licensee has complied with any terms of parole, probation, restitution, or any other sanctions lawfully imposed.
- Evidence, if any, of rehabilitation submitted by the licensee.

If you have been convicted of a crime and you fail to disclose the conviction on your renewal form, the

Board may take disciplinary action against you on the grounds that you falsified information required on your renewal application.

Additional information about this process is available on the Board's Internet web site at [www.bvnpt.ca.gov](http://www.bvnpt.ca.gov) or you may talk to an analyst in the Board's Enforcement Unit at (916) 263-7827.

## CE Audit Requirements

Each licensee renewing a license must sign on the renewal form a certification under penalty of perjury that 30 hours of continuing education was completed during the preceding two years. Licensees renewing for the first time are exempt from this requirement [CCR sections 2540.1(b) and 2592.1(b)]. To ensure compliance, the Board conducts random audits of continuing education courses reported by licensees.

Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) sections 2540.1 and 2592.1 require licensees to submit proof of completion of 30 hours of continuing education acceptable to the Board. Further, CCR sections 2540.5 and 2592.5 require licensees to maintain a record of continuing education courses taken during the last 4 years.

If you fail to provide proof of completion of 30 hours of continuing education when requested by the Board, will result, at least, in the issuance of a citation and fine. Continuing to practice as a licensed vocational nurse or psychiatric technician with an inactive license is a misdemeanor and grounds for disciplinary action.

***Keep your continuing education completion certificates or transcripts in a safe place for at least 4 years!***

# ENFORCEMENT

## ENFORCEMENT ACTION LIST\*

Licensed Vocational Nurses & Psychiatric Technicians  
July 1, 2001 - December 31, 2001

The Board publishes and distributes its Enforcement Action List in July and December each year. The list identifies licensees against whom enforcement action was taken during the six months immediately preceding publication of the list.

Examples of formal discipline include:

**Revocation:** The license is taken away from the licensee for a minimum of one year.

**Probation:** The license is placed on probationary status which includes specific terms and conditions of compliance; and

Other enforcement proceedings include:

**Cite/Fine:** The licensee is issued a citation and required to pay a fine commensurate with the violation committed.

The Enforcement Action List can be also accessed on the Board's Internet web site at [www.bvnpt.ca.gov](http://www.bvnpt.ca.gov).

\*NOTE: Although every effort is made to ensure that the following information is correct, interested parties should call the Board at (916) 263-7800 to obtain updated and accurate license information.

## Enforcement Actions - Licensed Vocational Nurses July 1, 2001 - December 31, 2001

### I. Disciplinary Actions

#### A. License Revoked

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE NO.</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
ANDRES, GILBERT	VN 184329	07/14/01
ARAMBULO, AMELITA	VN 123888	07/01/01
BLEVINS, DONNA	VN 91043	09/23/01
BURTON, PHILLIP	VN 160958	07/01/01
BUTTERS, GEORGIA	VN 170933	12/20/01
CARPENTER, THOMAS	VN 135967	10/14/01
COVER, COREY	VN 168720	09/01/01
ESPINO, GRISELDA	VN 186022	07/14/01
ESTRADA, ROBERT	VN 185267	10/14/01
GARCIA, ERIC	VN 164014	07/01/01
KORDICH, PATRICIA	VN 51018	12/20/01
LACY, KAREN	VN 161896	07/07/01
LEODONES, JEFFREY	VN 177748	07/01/01
MACGREGOR, SHARON	VN 134805	09/23/01
MANN, MELINDA	VN 146704	12/20/01
MARFORI, CARLO	VN 163963	09/23/01

(Continued on page 16, see Enforcement Action List)

## ENFORCEMENT ACTION LIST

(Continued from page 15)

### A. License Revoked Continued...

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE NO.</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
MASLOSKI, LINDA	VN 184307	12/20/01
NEITHERCOTT, STEVEN	VN 168310	09/01/01
NELSON, MARY	VN 108466	07/14/01
RODRIGUEZ, JOE	VN 81687	10/14/01
SENINI, MARY	VN 182991	07/01/01
TIBIG, EVELINA	VN 155624	07/14/01
TRUESDALE, PATRICIA	VN 108551	11/18/01
VELARDE, MANUEL	VN 71339	12/20/01
VILLANUEVA, LUCITO	VN 172341	10/01/01
WERTH-MOORE, ADRIEN	VN 95508	07/07/01
ZIEGEN, GARY	VN 179929	11/18/01

### B. Voluntary Surrender

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE NO.</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
BAKER, JESSICA	VN 147348	07/13/01
DAVIS, JUSTIN	VN 156333	07/13/01
GOULD, SHERRY	VN 140434	07/13/01
KRAMER, KIMBERLY	VN 169280	09/23/01
MCLAUGHLIN, JOHN	VN 176194	09/23/01
PATTERSON, MICHAEL	VN 145599	07/13/01
STEVENSON, CYNTHIA	VN 136030	07/01/01

### C. Revocation Stayed, Placed On Probation

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE NO.</u>	<u>BEGIN</u>	<u>END</u>
BECKER, DAVID	VN 124558	07/31/01	07/31/04
DOTSON, TRICIA	VN 178847	10/14/01	10/14/04
MACHICHE, FRANCISCO	VN 152336	09/01/01	09/01/04
MANSON, DORINDA	VN 83466	11/18/01	11/18/04
MYERS, CHRISTINE	VN 171404	08/25/01	08/25/04
OLEGARIO, LORNA	VN 180714	10/14/01	10/14/04
PASCALE, CATHY	VN 68989	07/07/01	07/01/04
PHIKO, CYNTHIA	VN 79435	10/14/01	10/14/04
ROHLAND, RICHARD	VN 186863	10/11/01	10/11/04
SCHULER, RICHARD	VN 152846	10/14/01	10/14/04
SHOCKEY, SABRINA	VN 75095	11/18/01	11/18/04
WILLIAMS, CARI	VN 159960	11/09/01	11/09/04
WILLIAMS, SANDRA	VN 93391	09/01/01	09/01/04
WILSON, JEAN	VN 113008	09/01/01	09/01/04
WISNIEWSKI, LORI	VN 195537	07/01/01	07/01/04

(Continued on page 17, see Enforcement Action List)

## ENFORCEMENT ACTION LIST

(Continued from page 17)

### D. Application For Licensure Granted On Probation

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE NO.</u>	<u>BEGIN</u>	<u>END</u>
AGUILAR, MARGARET	VN 197539	12/20/01	12/20/04
AGUILAR, NORAH	VN APPLICANT	07/13/01	07/13/04
BERMUDEZ, TERESA	VN 197991	01/11/02	01/11/05
BRYANT, TRACIE	VN 195920	07/18/01	07/18/04
COLE, TRUDY	VN 197437	11/28/01	11/28/04
FELBINGER, MELODEE	VN 196765	09/27/01	09/27/04
GATES, ANGELA	VN APPLICANT	07/13/01	07/13/04
JOHNSON, LORRAINE	VN 197281	11/18/01	11/18/04
LABAUVE, VERNON	VN 196264	09/16/01	09/16/04
QUIANE, ABRAHAM	VN 195893	07/12/01	07/12/04
WILLIAMS, SARAH	VN 196678	09/23/01	09/23/04

### E. Application Denied

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE NO.</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
GONZALEZ, GRACIELA	VN APPLICANT	07/01/01
HOLMAN, DAVID	VN APPLICANT	07/01/01
ROWELL, CARMEL	VN APPLICANT	09/23/01

### F. Reprimand

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE NO.</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
ATENCIO, TANYA	VN 158393	07/01/01

## II. Other Enforcement Actions

### A. Cite/Fine

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE NO.</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
ALEXANDER, GAIL - Fined \$1001.00	VN 103958	10/25/2001
ARVIZU, LANA - Fined \$250.00	VN 195416	11/25/2001
BARTHWELL, ANNETTE - Fined \$1000.00	VN 193499	10/24/2001
BREESE, VIRGINIA - Fined \$500.00	VN 155386	10/24/2001
CARANDANG, REYNALDO - Fined \$500.00	VN 182148	10/24/2001
CHANDLER, SHANNON - Fined \$250.00	VN 195808	12/13/2001
CROSS, FABYOLA - Fined \$225.00	VN 195557	12/13/2001
DANIELS, CHRISTLEE - Fined \$250.00	VN 30977	11/25/2001
DECESARI, DEBRA - Fined \$250.00	VN 193663	08/19/2001
DODSON, LARRY - Fined \$250.00	VN 195815	12/13/2001
DUNN, LINDA - Fined \$250.00	VN 151081	11/25/2001
EARL, ELLA MAY - Fined \$1001.00	VN 187500	09/06/2001
ECKLUND, KAREN - Fined \$500.00	VN 158323	12/05/2001
FALANIKO, LISA - Fined \$250.00	VN 195823	12/13/2001
GALLARDO, ERIC - Fined \$250.00	VN 196706	12/19/2001
GARCIA, HILLARY - Fined \$500.00	VN 152746	11/30/2001
GARCIA, LUTHERLY - Fined \$50.00	VN 176701	12/13/2001

(Continued on page 18, see Enforcement Action List)

## ENFORCEMENT ACTION LIST

(Continued from page 17)

### II. Other Enforcement Actions

#### A. Cite/Fine Continued...

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE NO.</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
GRIFFITH, EMILIA - Fined \$1001.00	VN 178194	11/25/2001
GRIZZARD, DARREN - Fined \$250.00	VN 196271	12/20/2001
HARMON, BARBETTE - Fined \$250.00	VN 196082	12/19/2001
JENTES, SYLVIA - Fined \$1001.00	VN 112392	11/25/2001
KHAMERA, VIRKAMAL - Fined \$250.00	VN 195690	12/13/2001
KOHL, SANDRA - Fined \$750.00	VN 138349	08/11/2001
LANTIS, CONNIE - Fined \$250.00	VN 196086	12/13/2001
LEWIS, LYNETTE - Fined \$250.00	VN 77584	10/24/2001
LOVCI, CAROL - Fined \$550.00	VN 122497	11/30/2001
LOYCHE, MARY BETH - Fined \$1001.00	VN 140806	11/25/2001
MAYO, CHRISTOPHER - Fined \$1000.00	VN 164186	11/25/2001
MAYO, KISMET - Fined \$1000.00	VN 167161	11/25/2001
MCCURDY, DEANNA - Fined \$1000.00	VN 152093	11/25/2001
MEDLOCK, DOLLY - Fined \$1001.00	VN 167287	11/25/2001
NAVARRO, RICHARD - Fined \$500.00	VN 158435	11/25/2001
NOURANIAN, HOMA - Fined \$250.00	VN 196275	12/19/2001
O'BRIEN, SHANNON - Fined \$250.00	VN 194449	10/24/2001
OUSBYE, DONALD - Fined \$500.00	VN 125907	11/25/2001
RAMIREZ, CONNIE - Fined \$790.00	VN 161725	11/26/2001
RAMZEIAN, JENNIFER - Fined \$250.00	VN 195558	12/13/2001
RAND-MAXWELL, SANDRA - Fined \$870.00	VN 135104	11/25/2001
RANDOLPH, CORA - Fined \$750.00	VN 147766	11/09/2001
ROBAINA, CIRA - Fined \$250.00	VN 192748	11/25/2001
RODRIGUEZ, JEFF - Fined \$250.00	VN 196390	12/19/2001
RODRIGUEZ-BROOKS, VALERIE - Fined \$250.00	VN 131308	11/25/2001
ROSE, CAROL - Fined \$500.00 -	VN 145479	12/29/2001
SCHNEIDER, AVIA - Fined \$250.00	VN 83946	11/25/2001
SECOQUIAN-PALMA, SHEILA - Fined \$2000.00	VN 183447	12/26/2001
SHIN, TERESA - Fined \$250.00	VN 193653	08/19/2001
SILVAS, JEANINE - Fined \$1001.00	VN 163759	12/05/2001
SUNDBORG, DEBRA - Fined \$500.00	VN 86205	08/16/2001
TROCHEZ-CALDERON, SUYAPA - Fined \$500.00	VN 189462	11/09/2001

(Continued on page 19, see Enforcement Action List)



## ENFORCEMENT ACTION LIST

(Continued from page 18)

### Enforcement Actions - Psychiatric Technicians July 1, 2001 - December 31, 2001

#### I. Disciplinary Actions

##### A. License Revoked

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE NO.</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
BROWN, ELIZABETH	PT 22668	12/20/01
GELORMINO, CHRISTOPHER	PT 22140	08/05/01
JOHNSON, LARRY	PT 27479	12/20/01
JONES, LISA	PT 27684	12/20/01
MARTINEZ, MARIA	PT 29216	12/20/01
MIKE, SANDRA JO	PT 23594	09/23/01
PASZKIEWICZ, JOSEPH	PT 28717	07/07/01
RATHER, ROBERT	PT 12799	11/18/01
SILVAS, GEORGE	PT 26968	11/18/01
TAFOYA, ROBERT	PT 18002	10/04/01

##### B. Revocation Stayed, Placed On Probation

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE NO.</u>	<u>BEGIN</u>	<u>END</u>
BURKE, BRIAN	PT 14481	07/13/01	07/13/04
FORD, DONALD	PT 20995	09/01/01	09/01/04
MYERS, KEVIN	PT 27958	12/20/01	12/20/04
SCOTT, LINDA	PT 25908	07/08/01	07/08/04

##### C. Application For Licensure Granted On Probation

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE NO.</u>	<u>BEGIN</u>	<u>END</u>
DYER, SHARON	PT 31107	11/18/01	11/18/04
MORANVILLE, JUSTIN	PT 31145	12/20/01	12/20/04

#### II. Other Enforcement Actions

##### A. Cite/Fine

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LICENSE NO.</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
ANDERSON, VALERIE - Fined \$1001.00	PT 28332	11/30/2001
FOSTER, DENNIS - Fined \$750.00	PT 21896	09/06/2001
FOSTER, TERRY - Fined \$1001.00	PT 25713	12/29/2001
JONES, PAUL - Fined \$1001.00	PT 20834	12/19/2001
MOIGUA, REBECCA - Fined \$2000.00	PT 20462	12/26/2001
MURPHY, DEAN - Fined \$1251.00	PT 29475	12/05/2001
MYAH, ALFRED - Fined \$1000.00	PT 25741	11/30/2001
PISTONE, STEPHEN - Fined \$250.00	PT 17494	11/25/2001
ROSALES, ESTELLE - Fined \$500.00	PT 29793	09/06/2001
ROWE, MICHAEL - Fined \$1001.00	PT 25975	11/09/2001
STEEN, DAVID - Fined \$1001.00	PT 18982	12/13/2001
THOMAS, ELLERY - Fined \$1,001.00	PT 19552	12/05/2001
WADDLE, MARVIN - Fined \$1001.00	PT 25933	10/24/2001
YOUNG ARMILYN - Fined \$1001.00	PT 22943	12/26/2001
ZARAGOZA, RACHEL - Fined \$1001.00	PT 14808	12/19/2001



**www.bvnpt.ca.gov**

One of the Board's strategic goals is to communicate effectively and work cooperatively with its stakeholders. To meet this goal the Board is now on the Web.

The webpage provides information regarding the Board's roles, functions and services, as well as issues and concerns pertaining to health care and the disciplinary process.



## Important Telephone Numbers

The following is a list of telephone numbers you may call should you require assistance:

- For general LVN information and questions about Examinations, call (916) 263-7800.
- For general PT information and questions about Examinations, call (916) 263-7830.
- For questions about an LVN or PT "scope of practice", call the Board's Education Unit at (916) 263-7843.
- To file a complaint against a licensee, call the Board's Enforcement Unit at (916) 263-7822.

## Other Regulatory Agencies

- For questions regarding Registered Nurses (RNs), call the Board of Registered Nursing at (916) 322-3350.
- For questions regarding Certified Nurse Assistants (CNAs), call the Department of Health Services, Licensing and Certification Unit, at (916) 327-2445.

# PRN

*The official newsletter of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians*

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State of California

Aileen Adams, Agency Secretary  
State and Consumer Services Agency

Kathleen Hamilton, Director  
Department of Consumer Affairs

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*This newsletter is presented to inform the reader of current Board policies, issues and activities with respect to the practice of licensed vocational nurses and psychiatric technicians in the State of California.*